Chapter 20

The Present Participle

20.1 A **Participle** is a "verbal adjective" :

e.g. "the **slinking** cat", "a **fallen** tree", "**running** water", "**stinking** garbage"
"The man **reading** the book is my brother.", "The girl walked down the road, **singing**."

The Greek Participles
are like verbs, in that they have Tense (past, present, perfect – future participles are rare in the GNT) and
are like adjectives, in that they have to agree with the noun or pronoun which they qualify (go with) in Number (singular or plural), Case (Nominative, Accusative, etc.) and Gender.

All participles follow the same basic set of rules for use, so in this chapter we shall restrict our examples to the Present Participle Active, as applied to a masculine nominative noun or pronoun. Later chapters will cover the other participles and their forms.

20.2 The Present Participle Active : The Present Stem of the Greek Verb has the sense of continuous or repeated action. For the Present Participle this implies that the action of the participle is going on at the same time as the action of the main verb in the sentence.

"The girl went to school, singing."	the action is in the past
"The girl goes to school, singing."	the action is in the present
"The girl will go to school, singing."	the action is in the future

Note that for all three sentences the participle remains the same - "singing".
The time at which the singing takes place is given by the main verb, not by the participle.

20.3 Greek builds the **Masculine form of the Present Participle** by adding
-ων (Singular) or **-οντες** (Plural) to the Present Stem of the Verb.

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	STEM-**ων**	STEM-**οντες**

The contract verbs apply the usual rules of contraction

α + ο or ω = ω, ε + ο = ου, ε + ω = ω, ο + ο = ου, ο + ω = ω

	Singular	Plural	
λέγω - I say	λέγων	λέγοντες	saying
ἀγαπάω - I love	ἀγαπῶν	ἀγαπῶντες	loving
ποιέω - I do, make	ποιῶν	ποιοῦντες	doing
πληρόω - I fulfil	πληρῶν	πληροῦντες	fulfilling
εἰμί - I am	ὤν	ὄντες	being
ἔχω - I have	ἔχων	ἔχοντες	having

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

NOTE - English does not use participles in quite the same way as Greek does.
For each of the sentences below there is a "wooden literal" translation, and a more colloquial translation.

1. ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἦν ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ κηρύσσων. Jesus was in the synagogue, preaching.
Jesus was preaching in the synagogue.
2. ἀκούων τοὺς λόγους τοῦ Ἰησοῦ πιστεύω αὐτῷ. Hearing the words of Jesus, I believe in him.
I hear the words of Jesus and believe in him.
3. ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἔχων τὸ βιβλίον διάκονός ἐστίν. The man having the book is a servant.
*The man **with** the book is a servant.*

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4. ὁ δέσμιος ὢν ἐν τῇ φυλακῇ κλαίει. The prisoner, being in the prison, weeps.
The prisoner weeps in the prison.

5. ἀγαπῶντες τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς εἰρήνην ἔχομεν. Loving the brothers, we have peace.
We have peace while we love the brothers.

6. διδάσκων τὰ παιδία ὁ διδάσκαλος ἀναβαίνει πρὸς τὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα. Teaching the children, the teacher goes up to(wards) Jerusalem.
The teacher teaches the children while he is going up to Jerusalem.

7. ὢν ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ ὁ Ἰωάννης κηρύσσει τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ τῷ λαῷ. Being in the desert, John preaches the word of God to the people.
While he is in the desert, John preaches the word of God to the people.

8. ὄντες ἐν τῇ Ἰερουσαλὴμ ζητοῦμεν τὸ ἱερόν. Being in Jerusalem, we seek the temple.
While we are in Jerusalem we seek the temple.

9. ποιοῦντες ταῦτα τὰ ἔργα εὑρίσκομεν τὴν εἰρήνην. Doing these deeds/acts/works, we find peace.
We find peace when we do these things.

10. λέγων τοῖς ὄχλοις ὁ Ἰησοῦς διδάσκει αὐτούς. Speaking to the crowds, Jesus teaches them.
Jesus speaks to the crowds and teaches them.

Note that in the above examples, English tends to turn the participle into an active verb, which takes on the same degree of importance as the main verb. Greek is more logical, in that it shows the main focus of the sentence by the main verb, and uses the Present Participle for describing the concurrent circumstances. This can be of importance in translating the Greek text.

For example, in Matthew 28:19-20, the Imperative is "make disciples!"
Participles are used for "having gone", "baptizing", and "teaching".
The command is not to "Go!" but to "Make disciples!" So a good translation should show this.
e.g. "Having gone, (or - After you go (from here), make disciples, (by) baptizing . . . and teaching . ."

20.4 The Participle used as a Noun

We learned in chapter 10 that adjectives can be used as nouns, by adding the definite article with the adjective. Go to Section 10.7 to review this usage if necessary.

Because the participle is a verbal adjective, it can be used in the same way.
e.g. ὁ λέγων = "the one saying" *"he who says"* οἱ λέγοντες = "the ones saying" *"those who say"*

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ὁ λέγων, Ἁμαρτίαν οὐκ ἔχω, ψεύστης ἐστίν. The one saying, "I do not have sin." is a liar.
He who says "I don't (have) sin." is a liar.

2. μακάριοι οἱ ποιοῦντες τὰ ἔργα τῆς δικαιοσύνης. Blessed the ones doing the works of righteousness.
Blessed are those who do (the) works of righteousness.

3. οἱ τηροῦντες τὸν νὸμον τοῦ θεοῦ ἦσαν δίκαιοι. The ones keeping the law of God were righteous.

4. ὁ ἀγαπῶν τὰς ἀδελφὰς διακονεῖ αὐταῖς. The one loving the sisters serves them.

5. ὁ κηρύσσων τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ προφήτης ἐστίν. The one preaching the word of God is the prophet.

6. οἱ ὄντες ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ Φαρισαῖοι ἦσαν. The ones (being) in the synagogue were Pharisees.

7. οἱ ἔχοντες τὸν σταυρὸν στρατιῶται εἰσίν. The ones having (with) the cross are soldiers.

8. ὁ ἄγων τοὺς ἵππους ἐστιν ὁ υἱὸς ὃν ἐγὼ φιλῶ. The one leading the horses is the son whom I love.

9. οἱ βλασφημοῦντες τὸν θεόν ἄδικοι εἰσίν. The ones blaspheming God are unrighteous.

10. οἱ προσκυνοῦντες τῷ κυρίῳ ἦσαν οἱ ἅγιοι. The ones worshiping the Lord were the saints.

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20.5 Negation : Greek uses **μή** with participles.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. μὴ ἔχοντες διδάσκαλον οἱ νεανίαι μακάριοι οὐκ ἦσαν.	Not having a teacher, the young men were not happy.
2. ὁ δοῦλος μὴ ἔχων ἄρτον πεινᾷ.	The slave, not having bread, is hungry.
3. ὁ μὴ πιστεύων ἐν τῷ κυρίῳ οὐ σοφός ἐστίν.	The one not believing in the Lord is not wise.
4. οἱ μὴ ἀγαπῶντες τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς περιπατοῦσιν ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ.	The ones not loving the brothers are walking in darkness.
5. οἱ μὴ κηρύσσοντες τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τοῦ Χριστοῦ μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ οὐκ εἰσίν.	The ones not preaching the Gospel of Christ are not his disciples.
6. ὁ μὴ ἀγαπῶν με τοὺς λόγους μου οὐ τηρεῖ.	The one not loving me does not keep my words. *(John 14:24)*
7. ὁ μὴ συνάγων μετ' ἐμοῦ σκορπίζει.	The one not gathering with me, scatters. *(Matt, 12:30)*
8. ὁ μὴ ὢν μετ' ἐμοῦ κατ' ἐμοῦ ἐστίν.	The one not (being) with me is against me. *(Matt, 12:30)*
9. ὁ ἀκούων τοὺς λόγους μου καὶ μὴ τηρῶν αὐτοὺς ἄπιστος ἐστίν.	The one hearing my words and not keeping them, is unfaithful.
10. ὁ ἀδελφὸς ὁ μὴ λέγων την ἀλήθειαν ψεύστης ἐστίν.	The brother not speaking the truth is a liar.

20.6 Sentences for reading and translation

1. μακάριοι οἱ ποιοῦντες τὰ ἔργα τοῦ θεοῦ.
2. ὁ ἔχων τὰ βιβλία ἐστιν ὁ διδάσκαλος.
3. οἱ μισοῦντες τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτῶν οὐ τέκνα θεοῦ εἰσίν.
4. ὁ ὄχλος ἀναβαίνων πρὸς τὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα ψάλλει τῷ θεῷ.
5. ὁ Ἰησοῦς καταβαίνων ἀπὸ τῶν Ἱεροσολύμων συνκαλεῖ τοὺς μαθητὰς αυτοῦ.
6. ὁ πρεσβύτερος ἦν ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ κηρύσσων τὸ εὐαγγέλιον.
7. ὁ ἄγγελος ἔχων τὸ βιβλίον ἀνοίγει αὐτὸ καὶ ἀναγινώσκει αὐτό.
8. ὁ διψῶν καὶ πεινῶν τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ ἀναγινώσκει τὰς γραφὰς τὰς ἁγίας.
9. ἐγγίζων εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ὁ Ἰησοῦς προφητεύει τὸν θάνατον αὐτοῦ.
10. μακάριοι οἱ πεινῶντες καὶ διψῶντες τὴν δικαιοσύνην.

20.7 Writing Practice : Write the Greek, while saying the Greek aloud (John 1:1-2)

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος,	In (the) beginning was the Word
καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν,	and the Word was with God
καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος.	and the Word was God.
οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν θεόν.	He (this one) was in the beginning with God

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20.8 New Testament Passages for reading and translation

Matthew 5:3-10, John 14:21, John 14:24, 1 John 2:9-11

In your Greek New Testament, read the passages aloud several times until you can read them without long pauses or stumbling. Then use the translation helps to translate them.

τῷ πνεύματι	in spirit	*(τὸ πνεύμα - the spirit, wind, breath)*
παρακληθήσοντι	they will be encouraged, comforted	*(Future Passive of παρακαλέω)*
οἱ πραεῖς	the gentle, humble	*(πραΰς, πραεῖα, πραΰ - humble, gentle)*
κληπονομήσουσιν	they will inherit	*(Future tense of κληρονομέω - I inherit, am an heir)*
χορτασθήσονται	they will be fed	*(Future Passive of χορτάζω - I feed)*
οἱ ἐλεήμονες	the ones showing mercy, being merciful	*(ἐλεέω - I show mercy)*
ἐλεηθήσονται	they will receive mercy	*(Future Passive of ἐλεέω - I show mercy)*
ὄψονται	they will see	
οἱ εἰρηνηποιοί	the ones making peace	*(from ἡ εἰρήνη - peace and ποιέω - I make)*
κληθήσονται	they will be called	*(Future Passive of καλέω - I call)*
δεδιωγμένοι	the ones having been persecuted	*(Perfect Pass. of διώκω - I persecute)*

ἀγαπήσεται	(he) will be loved	*(Future Passive of ἀγαπάω - I love)*
ὑπὸ τοῦ πατρός	by the father	*(πατρός is the Genitive Singular of ὁ πατήρ - father)*
ἀγαπήσω	I will love	*(Future of ἀγαπάω - I love)*
ἐμφανίσω	I will reveal	*(Future of ἐμφανίζω - I reveal, make known)*

τοῦ πεμψαντός με πατρός of the having-sent me Father = of the Father who sent me

λέγων ἐν τῷ φωτὶ εἶναι	claiming to be in the light	
ἐν τῷ φωτὶ	in the light	*(Genitive of τὸ φῶς - light)*
οἶδεν	(he) knows	*(from οἶδα - I know, I have learned)*
ἐτύφλωσεν	(it) blinded	*(a past tense of τυφλόω - I blind)*

20.9 Vocabulary to learn

ἀνοίγω	I open (up)	
διψάω	I am thirsty	
ἐλεέω or ἐλεάω	I am merciful, I show mercy to	*(English uses a dative - **Greek does not**)*
κληρονομέω	I inherit, share	*(from ὁ κλῆρος - portion, lot, ὁ κληρονόμος - heir)*
μένω	I remain	
μισέω	I hate	*(a misanthropist hates mankind)*
πεινάω	I am hungry	
πενθέω	I mourn	
σκορπίζω	I scatter	
χορτάζω	I feed	*(ὁ χόρτος - grass. χορτάζω originally meant "to feed cattle")*
ψάλλω	I sing	*(hence Psalm)*

τὸ σκάνδαλον	cause for offense, stumbling block	
ἄρτι	now, at the present, just now	
ἕνεκεν	for the sake of , on behalf of	*(takes Genitive)*
ἕως	until, as far as	*(used as a conjunction or a preposition)*

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